

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Rejection of claims 6 and 7 under 35 USC 103(a):

5 Claim 6 is currently amended by merging claim 7 and according to Fig.9. The
original claim 7 is therefore canceled. As shown in Fig.9, the flexible
pressure-providing joint 82 has a stop block 821 positioned on the mounting plate 1,
and an elastic member 822 extended from one of the springs 41 of the plurality of pitch
adjusting apparatuses 4 for pushing the second end 52 of the guide bar 5 towards the stop
10 block 821. No new matter is introduced by the amendment.

The currently amended claim 6 is repeated as follows:

15 "6. An optical disk drive for reading/writing data on an optical disk, the
optical disk drive comprising:
a mounting plate;
a base fixed on the mounting plate;
a spindle motor movably positioned on the base to drive the rotation of
the optical disk;
20 a plurality of pitch adjusting apparatuses, each of the pitch adjusting
apparatuses comprising a spring having two sides adjacent to the
base and the spindle motor to separate the base and the spindle
motor, and a screw connecting the base and the spindle motor to
limit separation of the base and the spindle motor, wherein a plane
25 in which the optical disk driven by the spindle motor is located is
adjusted by changing relative distances between the spindle motor
and the base at different positions to balance the springs and the
corresponding screws;
a guide bar having a first end and a second end along a lengthwise

direction of the guide bar positioned on the mounting plate;

a pickup head mounted on the guide bar and movable along the lengthwise direction of the guide bar between the first end and the second end, the pickup head capable of reading/writing data on the optical disk by an optical means; and

a fixing structure comprising a fixed joint and a flexible pressure-providing joint, the fixed joint rigidly fixing the first end of the guide bar to the mounting plate, the flexible pressure-providing joint having a stop block positioned on the mounting plate, and an elastic member extended from one of the springs of the plurality of pitch adjusting apparatuses for pushing the second end of the guide bar towards the stop block, and the first end and the second end of the guide bar fixed in their relative positions due to a flatness of the mounting plate and despite a positioning action of the fixing structure such that linear movement of the pickup head being guided by the guide bar."

It is clear that the elastic member is extended from one of the springs of the plurality of pitch adjusting apparatuses for pushing the second end of the guide bar towards the stop block. This arrangement enables the fixing structure and one of the pitch adjusting apparatuses to share one spring, and thus reduces the number of components needed by the optical disk drive.

Although the cited passage of Tsai discloses a fixing structure, and the cited passage of Handa discloses a plurality of pitch adjusting apparatuses, but the fixing structure and the pitch adjusting apparatuses utilize two different springs. None of Tsai and Handa teaches the elastic member is extended from one of the pitch adjusting apparatuses. Therefore Tsai and Handa cannot be reasonably combined to form all of the limitations in claim 6 of the present application. Consideration of the

currently amended claim 6 is politely requested.

2. Rejection of claim 8 under 35 USC 103(a):

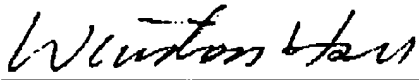
5 Claim 8 is dependent on the currently amended claim 6 and should be allowable if the currently amended claim 6 is allowable. Reconsideration of claim 8 is politely requested.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Sincerely yours,

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Note: Please leave a message in my voice mail if you need to talk to me. The time in D.C. is 13 hours behind the Taiwan time, i.e. 9 AM in D.C. = 10 PM in Taiwan).